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THE ADVENTURES OF BAYOU BILLY™

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"WRITER OF THE MONTH"

RICH MARGOPOULOS

INFERNO

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SOME NEW ORLEANS' SHIPPER WOULDN'T PAY THE GORDON SYNDICATE PROTECTION MONEY! NOBODY SAYS NO TO THE GORDONS, SO THEY CALL ME IN!

I'M HURRICANE HANK! THERE'S NOTHIN' I LIKE BETTER'N A GOOD FIRE! WHEN I TORCH SOMETHING, IT TAKES A HURRICANE T' PUT IT OUT!

I BURN THE SHIPPER'S WAREHOUSE, HIS TRUCKS, HIS PIER, A BUNCH'A HIS BARGES, A TUG...

...AN' ANYTHIN' ELSE CRAZY ENOUGH T' COME NEAR ME.'

RRR-OOOOOSHH!

NYARGH!

THE CREW'S JUMPED SHIP! I'M SAILIN' UP TH' MISSISSIPPI ON A FLAMIN' CRUISE T' NOWHERE! I EVEN TORCH A POLICE BOAT--JUS' FOR TH' FUN OF IT!

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IT'S LIKE CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S AN' MARDI GRAS -- ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!

HAHA HA!

THE DEVIL TAKE ME! I LOVE IT!

HE PROBABLY WILL, HANK!

THE VOICE STARTLES ME! I SQUINT THROUGH TH' SMOKE AN' SEE HIM!

BAYOU BILLY!

I DON'T KNOW HOW HE GOT ABOARD! MAYBE HE WAS HERE TH' WHOLE TIME! I DUNNO!

HE SAYS...

DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER EVER TELL YOU NOT TO PLAY WITH MATCHES?

AND I SAY...

DIDN'T YOUR MAW EVER TELL YA T' MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

PRETTY CLEVER, HUH?

I AIM MY FLAME-THROWER! BUT BILLY, HE JUST SMILES!

IT'S A SMILE THAT STOPS ME COLD!

BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING RASH, HOT STUFF...

LOOK AT THE DECK!

I LOOK! HE'S OPENED AND PUNCTURED A BUNCHA KEROSENE CANS! HE'S STANDIN' IN THE STUFF!

I LOOK DOWN!

SO'M I!

THIS JUS' ISN'T MY DAY!

BILLY STARTS TALKIN'-- PUSHIN' ME T' TH' LIMIT!

T' TH' LIMIT AN' OVER IT!

GO AHEAD, FIREBUG! DO ME!

ONLY DO YOURSELF, TOO!

C'MON, HANK! LET'S PARTY! YOU AFRAID? C'MON!!

HE DRIVES ME NUTS!

EERGH--!

GROWLING LIKE AN ANIMAL I RIP AT MY VELCRO SHOULDER STRAPS, CLAW OFF MY FUEL TANKS...

... AN SWING MY GEAR AT BILLY!

I MISS HIS HEAD BUT I GET LUCKY!

I KNOCK TH' STINKIN' KNIFE OUTTA HIS HAND!

I GO FOR BILLY'S THROAT! BUT HE JUS' WANTED T' SUCKER ME IN CLOSE!

HE FALLS BACK, HIS LEG COMIN' UP, PLANTIN' A FOOT IN MY GUT...

...FLINGIN' ME OVER TH' SIDE LIKE A RAG DOLL!

I GRAB TH' EDGE OF TH' BARGE, HANGIN' ON FOR LIFE! BILLY REACHES DOWN T'ME! TH' RIVER WANTS ME BAD!

REAL BAD!

MY HAND--! GRAB IT, HANK!

DON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!

BILLY'S PUT ME IN TH' JOINT THREE TIMES!

I WON'T GO BACK A FOURTH!

I LET TH' RIVER TAKE ME!

I CAN FIGHT TH' CURRENT--BUT NOT THE TUG'S PROPELLER!

I FEEL IT CHURNIN', CLOSER AN' CLOSER AN' CLOSER!

I REACH OUT AN' TOUCH PAIN! I SCREAM UNDERWATER!

I'VE JUS' LOST...

MY HAND!

HANK! WAS IT THAT DREAM AGAIN?!

DREAM, NOTHIN'! IT'S A NIGHTMARE, MONK!

A STINKIN' NIGHTMARE!

WELL, YOU'RE SAFE... SAFE IN THE CITY JAIL!

HERE! DRINK THIS! THE DOC SAYS IT'LL HELP YOU RELAX!

I CAN'T RELAX, YOU DUMB APE! I GOTTA BUST OUT-TA THIS CRACKERBOX...

...'FORE THEY TRANSFER ME T' A MAX SECURITY PRISON!

AN' ONCE I'M OUTTA HERE, I'VE GOT A PRIVATE SCORE T' SETTLE WITH BAYOU BILLY!!

SKRUNCH

I'M BAYOU BILLY! I USED TO BE A COMMANDO IN THE DELTA FORCE! NOW I'M A BOUNTY HUNTER!

LOCAL LEGENDS SAY I CAN'T DIE! I LIKE BEING A LEGEND! IT'S PLENTY TOUGH TO KILL ONE!

I SHOULD KNOW! "BIG DADDY" GORDON'S PERSONAL SECURITY FORCE JUST TRIED!

NOBODY USES ME FOR TARGET PRACTICE!

I OWE GORDON FOR THAT!

IN SPADES!!

HE THINKS HE'S SAFE IN ONE OF HIS ESTATES OUTSIDE NEW ORLEANS!

GUESS AGAIN!

QUIET AS A CAT'S SHADOW, I LIFT THE PLANTATION'S STORM DRAIN COVER!

THERE'S THREE GUARDS! THEY, MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BULL'S-EYES PAINTED ON 'EM!

THEY SAY THE BOSS SENT HIS *FIRE SUPPORT TEAM* AFTER BAYOU BILLY! HIS F.I.S.T. OUGHTA WACK HIM GOOD!

NOT TO MENTION HIS MANHUNTING BUDDIES... *TRACKER, BROADSIDE* AND *SURESHOT!*

AND DON'T FORGET THE *LEE* CHER, FROM THE *D.A.*'S OFFICE! SHE'S THE ONE THAT STARTED THIS!

I DIP MY HAND INTO MY BAG O' TRICKS ON MY ROPE BELT, COME UP WITH A BLOW-PIPE AND THREE KNOCKOUT DARTS!

PHFFFTT!

THIS'S ALMOST TOO EASY!

LIKE FISH IN A BARREL--!

OW--! MY NECK!

PHFFT!

BLASTED SKEETERS!

SLAP!

SMACK!

PHFFT!

#%@!!! +&#¢@!!!

SWAT!

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NIGHTY-NIGHT, BOYS! SWEET DREAMS!

IT ISN'T HARD FINDING POPPA BEAR GORDON! HE'S SLEEPING LIKE A BABY!

I HATE TO DISTURB HIS BEAUTY REST!

BUT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS! I KICK HIM OUT OF BED!

C'MON, GANG LORD! TIME TO GET UP!

RISE AND SHINE!

FWUMP!

H-HUH! WHA--?!

AAAAAA!!

B-BAA-BAYOU B-B-BILLY!!

YEAH! YOUR WORST *NIGHTMARE*, -- IN THE *FLESH*!

:GROAN: W-WHAT DO YOU *WANT*?

READ THIS!

A WANTED POSTER OF *HURRICANE HANK*?

NOT THAT! THE *OTHER SIDE*!

IT'S A HAND WRITTEN CONFESSION FROM *MR. TNT*!

HE CLAIMS I ORDERED HIM TO... TO *BLOW UP* YOUR *HOUSE*!*

WHAT IS THE *MEANING* OF *THIS*?

WANTED

EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS, GORD-O!

YOU OWE ME FIFTY THOUSAND BUCKS FOR A NEW *HOUSE*!

* IT HAPPENED IN OUR FIRST ACTION PACKED ISSUE! IF YOU MISSED IT, HANG YOUR HEAD IN SHAME! -- R.P.M & A.C.

:SPUTTER: THIS IS *ILLEGAL!* ...AN *OUTRAGE!*

WHAT IF I *REFUSE* TO PAY?

THEN I'LL GET *MAD!*

VERY MAD!

ER, I :GULP: SEE!

WE'RE BOTH REASONABLE MEN! WILL YOU ACCEPT A CHECK?

AS LONG AS IT ISN'T *RUBBER!* IF IT *BOUNCES*, GORDON...

... I'LL BE BACK FOR A PIECE OF YOU!

IT WON'T BOUNCE! NOW TAKE IT AND GET *OUT* BEFORE I...!

EH?

HE'S *GONE--!* VANISHED... LIKE A *GHOST!!*

AS I MELT BACK INTO THE NIGHT, I CAN HEAR GORDON SCREAMING HIS LUNGS OUT!

GUARDS!

BAYOU BILLY'S GETTING *AWAY!*

SHOOT HIM! *GUARDS!*

TOO BAD HIS MEN ARE STILL OFF IN NEVER-NEVER LAND!

OH VICKY SUE! :MUMBLE: YOU NAUGHTY THING, YOU! :SIGH:

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THE NEXT DAY, I SIT IN ON F.I.S.T.'S ARRAIGNMENT! ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNABEL LEE IS MADDER THAN A STEPPED ON COTTONMOUTH...!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE?!

YOUR HONOR, THE GORDONS' EMPLOY THEIR OWN PRIVATE SECURITY TEAM!

THEY WERE CONDUCTING PARAMILITARY MANEUVERS IN THE SWAMPS!

IT WAS NEVER THEIR INTENT TO FRIGHTEN OR HARM ANYONE!

WHEN MR. GILES GORDON HEARD HIS F.I.S.T. INADVERTENTLY DEMOLISHED MR. "BAYOU" BILLY WEST'S DOMICILE...

...HE IMMEDIATELY OFFERED MR. WEST A HANDSOME OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT!

THEREFORE, I RECOMMEND ALL CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS BE DROPPED!

DROPPED?!? THE ELDER GORDON SELLS WEAPONS MANUFACTURED BY HIS MUNITIONS FIRM TO TERRORISTS!

HIS STEPSON ROCCO IS UNDER SUSPICION FOR INSIDER TRADING!

AND HIS SON ROCK IS A PETTY RACKETEER, RUNNING GAMBLING AND LOAN SHARKING-- ALLEGEDLY!

I APPRECIATE THE LECTURE, MISS LEE! HOWEVER, I FIND GILES GORDON A REPUTABLE BUSINESSMAN!

UNLESS YOU CAN SUBSTANTIATE YOUR WILD ACCUSATIONS, ALL CHARGES ARE SUMMARILY DISMISSED!

WHAT ABOUT CUTTHROAT AND KID CREOLE? THEY *ASSAULTED* ME EARLIER BY THEMSELVES!

A BLATANT *LIE*, YOUR HONOR! IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE MISS LEE KNOWS KARATE! SHE ATTACKED THEM *FIRST*--SIMPLY TO FABRICATE A *CASE*!

SINCE THERE ARE NO *WITNESSES* TO SUPPORT EITHER ACCOUNT, MY *RULING* STILL STANDS!

BANG!

DISMISSED....!!

THEY'RE GOING TO *WALK*, BILLY! ALL OF THEM--! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT!

DON'T TAKE IT *SO HARD*, SUGAR! WE GOT IN OUR *LICKS*!

LICKS? WHAT *LICKS*?

I KNEW GORDON'D PROBABLY *WEASEL* HIS WAY *CLEAR*! SO, I HIT HIM UP FOR FIFTY GRAND, FIRST!

WHEN *WORD* GETS OUT, HE'LL BE THE *LAUGHING STOCK* OF THE *BIG EASY* UNDERWORLD!

I DOUBT WHAT YOU DID WAS COMPLETELY *LEGAL*, BILLY--

BUT... HOW'BOUT TAKING ME OUT FOR *GUMBO* TONIGHT?

MY OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT'S A MATTER OF *PUBLIC RECORD*, CHÉRIE!

HUMMMMMM

AND BEFORE *DINNER*, HOW ABOUT A LITTLE *DESSERT* FIRST?

MMM MMMMM!

LATER, THAT NIGHT...

COME ON, HANK! MOVING DAY! YOU'RE GOING TO THE STATE PEN!

HEY! WHAT'S WITH HIM?

OOHHHHH...

I THINK HE'S SICK!

I'M SICK ALL RIGHT...

SICK'A BEIN' COOPED UP IN THIS STINK HOLE!

SWACK-K-K!

DON'T TRY IT, ROOKIE! I WANT AN UNMARKED CAR NOW! OR THIS COP'S WIFE IS A WIDOW!

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! DO AS HE SAYS! GET IT!!

HANK, TAKE ME WITH YOU! I GAVE YOU YOUR MEDICINE...

URPH!!

SORRY, MONK! YOU'RE EXCESS BAGGAGE!

I LIKE T' TRAVEL LIGHT!

SOON OUTSIDE...

DRIVE!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, HANK!

EVEN IF YOU GIVE EVERYONE THE SLIP...

... BAYOU BILLY WILL HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE A DOG!

HAHAHAHA!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M COUNTING ON!

NOW LIKE I SAID... FLOOR IT!

THREE OF OLD MAN GORDON'S BODYGUARDS WERE FOUND FLOATING IN LAKE PONCHARTRAIN!
GORDON ARMAMENTS INC.

HEARD THEY COULDN'T STAY AWAKE ON THE JOB! THAT'LL TEACH 'EM!
CAN YOU SAY, "STAY AWAKE," BOYS AND GIRLS?
GIN!

THIS JUST IN! IN A DARING LATE NIGHT ESCAPE, INFAMOUS ARSONIST, HURRICANE HANK DEEBE, ESCAPED FROM HIS HOLDING CELL, TAKING AN OFFICER HOSTAGE IN A STOLEN POLICE CAR!
KNOK KNOCK
SOMEONE'S AT THE FRONT DOOR!

SO, GO ANSWER IT!
MAYBE IT'S HURRICANE HANK!
HA-HA!

HURRICANE HANK! SNORT!
THAT'S A GOOD ONE! SNORT! SNORT!
ULP!
H-HUR-HURRICANE HANK!?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
I GOT TIRED OF TWIDDLING MY THUMB WAITING FOR GORDON T' SPRING ME! SO I SPRUNG MYSELF!

WHERE'S THE GETAWAY CAR? WHERE'S YOUR HOSTAGE?!
DITCHED FOUR BLOCKS FROM HERE!
THE COP'S CHAINED T' TH' DOOR WITH HIS OWN CUFFS!

I COULDA' *WASTED* 'IM-- BUT I DIDN'T WANT TH' POLICE ALL *FIRED UP* LOOKIN' FOR *ME*! SO I--!

AH!

HERE'S MY SPARE *SUIT* AN' *GEAR*! RIGHT WHERE I *STASHED* 'EM!

SECONDS LATER...

PH-SHOOSH!

FUEL TANKS'RE STILL FULL--

WRISTCUP NOZZLE WORKS LIKE A CHARM!

I'M BACK IN *BUSINESS*!

TH' *MORE* TH' BETTER! IF BAYOU BILLY COMES POKIN' AROUND... ...HE'LL GET A *WARM* RECEPTION! *REAL* WARM!

HA-HAHAHA!

THIS *PLACE* IS PACKED SKY HIGH WITH *EXPLOSIVES*!

UH, MR. DEEBE! CHECKING OUT YOUR EQUIPMENT ISN'T SUCH A *HOT* IDEA!

DEALIN' WITH ESCAPED *PSYCHOPATHS* AIN'T IN MY *JOB* DESCRIPTION!

SO *WHAT* DO WE *DO*?

SIMPLE! HE *WORKS* FOR THE BOSS! CALL THE GORDONS!

YOU GUYS *PLAY* RUMMY? DEAL ME IN A *HAND*!

GET IT? A *HAND*?!

ONE LAST *THING*, HANK! YOU'RE SURE YOU WEREN'T *FOLLOWED*?

POSITIVE! I'M 100 PER CENT *CERTAIN*!

YOU HAVE MY *WORD* ON IT!

NOW GET YOUR *PARTNER* OFF THE PHONE AN' START *SHUFFLIN'*!

I'M FEELIN' GOOD'N *LUCKY*!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, ROCK, ROCCO AND GILES "BIG DADDY" GORDON MEET AT THEIR ST. CHARLES AVENUE MANSION...

WE GOT *TROUBLE*, DAD! HURRICANE HANK BROKE OUT OF *JAIL*!

EVEN *WORSE*, STEPFATHER-- HE'S *HIDING* IN OUR MISSISSIPPI WAREHOUSE!

MY LAWYERS WERE WORKING TO *FREE* HANK DEEBE ON APPEAL!

BUT HE COULDN'T *WAIT*!

HE HAD TO ACT IMPULSIVELY... *IMPRUDENTLY*!

I FEAR HE HAS BECOME A *LIABILITY* TO US... AN *EXPENDABLE* LIABILITY!

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE? THAT WE SEND IN OUR *F.I.S.T.* TO TAKE HIM *DOWN*?!

SKRISH!

NO, ROCCO! I'VE A BETTER *IDEA*! TIP OFF MISS ANNABEL LEE TO HANK'S *WHEREABOUTS*!

BUT, DAD! THE *LEE* CHER WILL ONLY SHOOT OFF HER *YAP* TO BAYOU BILLY!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M COUNTING ON, ROCK! HURRICANE HANK AND BILLY ARE BITTER *ENEMIES*...!

WE'LL PIT ONE *AGAINST* THE OTHER!

PERHAPS NO ONE WILL *WIN*, EH? *EH*?

OH, AND ROCCO, TRIPLE OUR FIRE INSURANCE ON THAT WARE-HOUSE! HANK HAS A TENDENCY TO GET A BIT, SHALL WE SAY --*WILD*?!

SCRATCH! SCRATCH!

STEPFATHER, YOU'RE AN UNABASHED *GENIUS*!

WHILE THE GORDONS ARE HAVING THEIR LITTLE POW-WOW, I'M WAITING FOR ANNABEL IN FRONT OF HER APARTMENT...

AND WAITING...

AND WAITING...

SHE SAID SHE'D BE READY IN A MINUTE! BEEN ALMOST AN HOUR

WOMEN! GO FIGURE!

WHEN SHE FINALLY DOES SHOW, SHE LOOKS SO GOOD, I SUDDENLY DON'T MIND THE WAIT!

SORRY I TOOK SO LONG! I KNOW YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO GO *HOUSE HUNTING*, BILLY! BUT I JUST GOT THE *STRANGEST* PHONE CALL!

HURRICANE HANK IS...

...*HOLED UP* IN A GORDON WAREHOUSE, ON THE RIVER!

YES! BUT *HOW* DID YOU FIND OUT?

I KNEW HANK'D *TRY SOMETHING*! SO, I HAD TRACKER *STAKE OUT* THE JAIL! HE FOLLOWED HIM, EASY AS PIE!

THAT CALL YOU GOT WAS A *SET-UP*, DARLIN'! GILES GORDON WANTS ME AND DEEBE TO DO A *NUMBER* ON EACH OTHER...!

BUT I'VE GOT A *SURPRISE* LINED UP FOR *BOTH* OF 'EM!

WHY NOT CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES -- AND LET THEM HANDLE THIS?

AND *RISK* INNOCENT LIVES? IT'S *ME* HE WANTS! AND YOU, TOO--

FOR PROSECUTING HIM!

I KNOW HANK -- HOW HE *THINKS* AND HOW HE *ACTS*! AND I ALSO KNOW...

...I'M THE *ONLY* ONE WHO CAN *STOP* HIM!

YOU'RE AN *EXCEPTIONAL* MAN, BILLY -- LIVING BY YOUR OWN *RULES* AND *CODES*!

I'VE EVEN HEARD WEIRD RUMORS YOU CAN'T BE KILLED!

THEY'RE NOT STORIES, ANNIE! I HAVE DIED --- TWICE!

BE SERIOUS!

I AM! DEAD SERIOUS!

"SOME YEARS BACK, WHEN I WAS IN THE DELTA FORCE, I PRESSED CHARGES AGAINST SUPPLY SERGEANT ROCK GORDON FOR DEALING WITH THE BLACK MARKET!"

"AT THAT TIME, BEFORE HE WAS FOUND GUILTY, HE WAS STILL RUNNING 'ROUND FREE WAITING FOR HIS COURT MARTIAL!"

"MEANTIME, G-2 GOT SOME HARD INTELLIGENCE 'BOUT OUR HOSTAGES IN LEBANON!

THEY SENT US IN, VERY HUSH-HUSH!"

"TRACKER WAS OUR SCOUT, WALKING POINT!

SUDDENLY, HE SMELLED DANGER!"

IT'S AN AMBUSH! RETREAT--!!

"TRACKER STOPPED A BULLET! I RAN TO HIS RESCUE!

ONLY MY M-16 WOULDN'T FIRE! SOMEONE REMOVED THE FIRING PIN!

BLAM!

IT HAD TO BE GORDON!"

"I TOOK TWO SLUGS IN THE CHEST AND WENT DOWN!

BLAM!

BANG!

THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!"

"THE MISSION WAS A WASH-OUT! THE LOOIE CALLED IN THE AIR CAV FOR AN EMERGENCY EVAC!"

SURESHOT! SNIPER TO YOUR RIGHT!

I SEE HIM, BROADSIDE! HE'S HISTORY...!!

KRACK! KRACK!

PING! BANG!

BRAT-A-TAT-TAT! POPPA POPPA-BOP!

KRACK! KRACK!

"IT MUST'VE BEEN ONE HECKUVA FIRE FIGHT!"

"ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CARRIER 'KENNEDY,' MY HEART STOPPED! BROADSIDE DID CPR!"

COME ON, BILLY! HANG IN THERE!

"CRACKED THREE RIBS JUMP STARTING MY TICKER, HE DID!"

LIVE, BLAST YOU! LIVE!!

HE'S MOVING... BREATHING!

YOU DID IT! YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK!

AFTER I LEFT THE SERVICE, I SETTLED IN THE BAYOU... FOR PERSONAL REASONS! I DUG UP A LOT OF DIRT ON ALL THE GORDONS!

I BECAME A BOUNTY HUNTER AND BEGAN WHITTLING AWAY AT THEIR CRIMINAL FAMILY!

"THE GORDONS TOOK OUT A CONTRACT ON ME! THEIR HITMAN WAS WAITING ONE NIGHT, STANDING ON MY DOCK LIKE THE ANGEL OF DEATH!"

WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU?!

:AHHHH: ME, I'M SWAMP GAS CHARLIE GASKILL! :AHHHHH:

"HE TOOK SOME KIND OF GAS GRENADE OUT OF HIS POCKET-- AND HELD IT FOR ME TO SEE!"

YOU CAN CALL ME :AHHHHH: SWAMP GAS!

OR YOU CAN :AHHHHH: CALL ME CHARLIE!

"BEFORE I COULD REACT, HE HURLED THE BOMB AT MY FEET!

IT EXPLODED ON IMPACT!"

OR :AHHHHH: YOU CAN CALL ME GASKILL!!

HISSSST

SPASH!

"I FELL BACK INTO THE BOAT, PARALYZED!"

THAT GAS IS A SLOW-ACTING NEURO-TOXIN, BILLY! :AHHHH:

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO :AHHHH: FEEL YOURSELF DIE?!

"WANTED TO BREATHE!"

"COULDN'T!"

"MY OWN BODY WAS SMOTHERING ME!"

"FOR THE SECOND TIME IN MY LIFE, I DIED!"

"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I DRIFTED!"

"WHEN I FINALLY OPENED MY EYES, AN OLD BLACK MAN WAS BABYING ME!

DRINK THIS!

IT LOOKS LIKE DISHWATER!

IT'S AN HERBAL BROTH FOR STRENGTH!

TASTES LIKE DISHWATER, TOO!

"HIS NAME WAS PAPA JAMBO! AFTER HE NURSED ME BACK TO HEALTH, HE SPENT WEEKS TEACHING ME ABOUT THE BAYOU!"

PAY ATTENTION, BOY! THAT PLANT IS GOOD FOR INFECTION! AND THIS HERB WILL KNOCK A MAN OUT COLD!

WHAT ABOUT THIS ROOT, PAPA?

I CALL IT MY SECRET SALVE!

CRUSH IT AND BOIL IT...

RUB A LITTLE O' THE *PASTE* ON...

AND THE *GATORS* WON'T GO *NEAR* YOU!

THEY *HATE* THE *STUFF!*

SEE?

"I COULD SEE PLENTY! PAPA JAMBO DIDN'T JUST SAVE MY LIFE!"

"HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ME A LEGEND!"

"I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET BACK TO *NEW ORLEANS*... AND SCARE THE GORDONS!"

"PAPA GAVE ME A GIFT - HIS *BAG O' TRICKS!*"

"WE SAID GOOD-BYE, AND I STARTED FOR HOME! BUT, I GOT *LOST!* TOOK ME A DAY AND A HALF TO MAKE IT BACK!"

"THAT'S THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW PAPA JAMBO!"

YOU NEVER WENT BACK, BILLY?

SURE I WENT *BACK!* COULDN'T FIND HIM! TRACKER CAN'T, EITHER!

ANNIE, IT'S ALMOST LIKE... WELL, LIKE THE OLD GUY NEVER EXISTED!

THAT'S THE SPOOKIEST STORY I EVER--! ER WHY ARE WE STOPPING *HERE?*

WHAT ABOUT HOUSE HUNTING?!

NO TIME, CHER! I JUST SAID THAT, 'CASE THE GORDONS WERE TAPPING YOUR *LINE!*

WE'VE GOTTA PICK UP *HELGA!*

AL'S GARAGE & TOWING

WHO'S HELGA?

YOU'LL SEE!

TRACKER! WHERE'S AL?

IN THE BACK, WORKING ON HELGA!

WHO'S AL?

ALEX PULLS MAINTENANCE ON OUR BILLY-MOBILES!

BEST MECHANIC IN THE PARISH!

HOW'S THE WELDING COMING, AL?

ALEX?! GREASE--!!

PHFISSHT!

BILLY?

BILLY!!!

UHMMMMM!

?!!

:AHEM: MR. WEST, AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR, UH, FRIEND?

UM, ALEXANDRA LA ROCHELLE! MEET ANNABEL LEE, FROM THE D.A.'S OFFICE!

CONTINUED

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PLEASED TO MEET YOU... "AL" IS IT? OR DO YOU PREFER "ALEX"?

YOU CAN CALL ME GREASE--

-- SHORT FOR GREASE MONKEY!

YES-S-S-S I CAN SEE HOW THE NAME FITS!

SO HOW'S HELGA GREASE?

SHE'S BEEN ARMOR-PLATED--

...AND I YANKED HER MOTOR AND REPLACED IT WITH A TANK ENGINE! ARMY SURPLUS! HER SNOW-PLOW HOOD ORNAMENT WILL SMASH THROUGH ANYTHING!

THEN WE'RE ALL SET FOR TONIGHT!

TRACKER, YOU STAY AND GUARD THE GIRLS, CASE HANK STRIKES AT THEM TO GET AT ME!

WHAT?

YOU LIED ABOUT HOUSE HUNTING AND DRAGGED ME TO THIS GREASE-PIT FOR MY... MY PROTECTION?!

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, MISSY!

YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST, BILLY!

YUP!

SNAPP!

THAT REMINDS ME! THERE'S ONE LAST THING!

I GOT ON THE PHONE, DISGUISING MY VOICE!

HELLO? NATIONAL CALAMITY? I'M GILES GORDON'S ACCOUNTANT! IT SEEMS THERE'S BEEN AN ERROR!

ALL THE EXTRA FIRE INSURANCE HE'S TAKEN OUT LATELY--?

CANCEL IT!

THAT'S RIGHT! ALL OF IT!

HA HA HA HO HA HOOT HOO HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HYUCK

I DON'T GET IT!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

WHAT?!

THAT NIGHT, BROADSIDE, SURESHOT AND ME TAKE HELGA OUT FOR A LITTLE SPIN!

HEY! DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING FUNNY?

LIKE A GIANT TANK ENGINE -- COMING RIGHT AT US?!

RRRRHUUUMMM!

MMM BUH-WHAM MM!!

HOLEE! IT'S ONE OF BAYOU BILLY'S TRUCK MONSTERS!

SPARE ME THE PLAY-BY-PLAY!

OPEN UP ON IT!

NO DICE! IT... IT'S STEEL PLATED!

WHERE'S HANK?!

KRACK! KRACK

CHA-POW POW!

WE CAN'T COUNT ON HIM! WE NEED MORE REINFORCEMENTS HERE FAST!!

VING! PING! SPRANG! WAH-TING!

ONE OF 'EM'S HEADING FOR THE PHONE, SURESHOT!

NOT FOR LONG, HE'S NOT!

HIT HIM WITH THE BRIGHTS, BROADSIDE!

H-HELLO? ROCK? ROCCO?! WE GOT--!

AANGH!

MY EYES....!!

OPERATOR! OPERATOR!

I'VE BEEN...

ZIP-P-P-P!

...CUT OFF!

OH, LORDY!

SHUNK!

CONTINUED

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THEIR *CALL* COULD NOT BE COMPLETED AS *DIALED!*

FOR MY NEXT *TRICK*, HAND ME A *TNT ARROW!*

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, SURESHOT, I'D SWEAR YOU WAS *ENJOYIN'* THIS!

DID YOU GET *THROUGH?*

DID *YOU?!*

THEY *CUT* ME OFF...

WITH A *CROSSBOW BOLT!!*

WHIZ-Z-Z-ZIPP!

?

THEY *SMASH* IN HERE AND ALL THEY'VE GOT IS A *BOW* AND *ARROW?*

WE CAN OUT-FLANK THAT TWO-BIT *ROBIN-HOOD* AND---!

SSSSSSSTTTT

EXPLO

WHAT WAS THAT?!

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE AN *ARROW* WITH A STICK OF *DYNAMITE* TAPED TO IT.

DYNAMITE!

-SKA-RASHH!

GAAAAA!!

KA-RUMP!

SPLUT!

GLUB

BEEN FIVE MINUTES, BROADSIDE! TIME TO *MOVE OUT!*

I SURE HOPE BILLY KNOWS *WHAT* HE'S *DOING*...

I HAVE A PLAN!

WHILE HELGA OCCUPIES HANK'S ATTENTION, I'M GONNA ZING HIM WITH A KNOCKOUT DART!

THEY'RE *LEAVING!* BUT WHERE'S BAYOU BILLY? IF HE DIDN'T GET *OUT*, IT'S BECAUSE...

VAAA BOOOMM!

...BECAUSE HE'S TRYIN' T' GET THE DROP ON ME!

FLIK!

ONLY TROUBLE IS, HANK'S GOTTEN WISE! BEFORE I CAN THINK ABOUT GOING FOR MY BAG O' TRICKS OR KNIFE...

... HE'S ALREADY SENDING 1,000 DEGREES OF LIQUID FAHRENHEIT MY WAY!

KROOOOOSHHH!

I LEAP FOR MY LIFE!

I NOTICED A FOLDED UP TARP BELOW ME EARLIER!

I USE IT TO BREAK MY FALL!

UNGH!

WAPP!

ALMOST INSTANTLY, I'M UP ON MY FEET, INSIDE THE MAZE OF CRATES!

WHUMP!

VROOSHH!

HANK IS HOT ON MY HEELS!

HANK CUTS LOOSE WITH HIS FLAMETHROWER, ATTACKING THE WAREHOUSE LIKE A MAD ARTIST DOES A CANVAS!

AMMUNITION

DANGER

CAUTION EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE

YOU'RE CINDERS, PAL!

DANGER EXPLOSIVE

HEAR ME? CINDERS--!!

FLAMES SPLASH EVERYWHERE!

LUCKY FOR ME, I'VE A BACK UP PLAN! LET THE FLAMES FLUSH HANK INTO THE OPEN!

SOMEHOW, BROADSIDE, SURESHOT AND ME WILL NAIL HIM OUTSIDE! SOUNDS GOOD ON PAPER!

DANGER

BUT FIRST I'VE GOTTA GET OUTSIDE!

ONLY THERE'S AN UNEXPECTED HITCH!

HANK'S ANTICIPATED MY MOVE, WAITING FOR ME!

END O' THE LINE, MAN-HUNTER!

WHEN THIS PLACE BLOWS IT'S TAKIN' US WITH IT!

PLUNGES

SO MUCH FOR MY MASTER PLANS!

SUDDENLY, THERE'S A SUPER-POPPING SOUND! THE AMMO'S STARTIN' TO GO UP!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM!

SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR DEATH WISH, HANK!

BUT TWICE IS ENOUGH FOR ME!

WHUF!

BAM!

BAM!

BAM

I FIGURE I'VE GOT A WHOLE SECOND TO ACT! I HIT HANK WITH A FLYING TACKLE...

...JUST AS THE ENTIRE BUILDING ERUPTS!

KUH-WHOOM!

WE RIDE THE SHOCKWAVE INTO THE RIVER!

A HOT NEEDLE JABS THROUGH MY ARM!

SHRAPNEL!

I WAS BETWEEN HANK AND THE EXPLOSION, TAKING THE BRUNT OF IT!

I'M IN SHOCK FROM THE BLAST, BLEEDING FROM A FLESH WOUND!

I'M NOT SURE WHERE HANK IS!

I DON'T CARE!

I STRUGGLE TO THE SURFACE!

I SEE A TUG TOWING A BARGE IN FRONT OF ME!

I'M NOT SURE I CAN MAKE IT!

HALF AN ETERNITY LATER, I DO!

HERE, FELLA, LEMME GIVE YOU A HAND!

THAT VOICE--!

IT MAKES MY BLOOD RUN COLD AS ICE!

HANK HAULS ME ABOARD! I'M IN NO SHAPE TO TAKE HIM ON!

I KNOW IT!

AND HE KNOWS IT!

I SPRAWL ON THE DECK! DEEBE TOWERS OVER ME, LAUGHING! MY MIND RACES! GOT TO STALL, CATCH MY BREATH!

:PANT: YOU CAN FRY ME, HANK! BUT *TRACKER* AND THE OTHERS, THEY'LL :GASP: GET *YOU*!!

HAHAHA HAHAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA!

I CLUMSILY GO FOR MY KNIFE...

AGAIN, HANK ANTICIPATES ME!

HE KICKS THE BLADE OUT OF MY HAND...

LIKE TAKING A DANGEROUS TOY FROM A BABY!

PLAYIN' *POSSUM*, HUH, BILLY?

THOSE *TRICKS* 'A YOURS ARE GETTIN' T' BE SOMETHING YOU *WON'T*... *OLD*!

I'M TAPPED OUT! HANK GLOATS AS I STAGGER TO MY FEET!

KRIZZ!

KRACK!

KRACKLE!

I'M READY TO DIE!

I'VE *DREAMED* OF THIS MOMENT! DREAMED OF IT FOR *YEARS*!

BUT HANK GIVES ME A REPRIEVE!

SSSSSSSSSSS!!!

HE KILLS HIS FLAME, SHUCKS HIS GEAR!

SHUK!

WE'RE GONNA SETTLE THIS MY WAY!

MAN T' *MAN*!

HANK LUNGES AT ME!

I PRAY FOR STRENGTH I DON'T HAVE!

HOO- HA HA HA HA HA HA!

MY BAD ARM SCREAMS IN AGONY AS I GRAB ONE OF HIS, FLIPPING HIM OVER MY SHOULDER!

HAHAHAHA... HUH?

HURRICANE HANK DOES A HEADER OVER THE RAILING!..

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING AGAIN!

NO-O-O-O-O

NEITHER CAN HE!

MY HAND--! GRAB IT, HANK!

DON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!!

DEEBE'S LIPS CURL BACK IN A SNARL, HIS VOICE DRIPPING WITH HATRED!

YOU ALREADY KNOW MY ANSWER TO THAT!

AND THEN... HE'S GONE.

IN THE DARK, I HEAR THE WAIL OF SIRENS!

THE FIRE ENGINES REMIND ME OF SHREIKING BANSHEES, COME TO CLAIM THE LOST SOUL OF HURRICANE HANK!

END

HEY, *BAYOU BUDDIES!* SEND YOUR LETTERS TO SWAMP SAYIN'S c/o ARCHIE COMICS, 325 FAYETTE AVE., MAMARONECK, N.Y. 10543. ***YOU TAKE CARE NOW, HEAR?!***

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BY RICH MARGOPOULOS, AMANDA CONNER & MIKE ESPOSITO!

ON SALE NOVEMBER 1989

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM Archie® COMICS.

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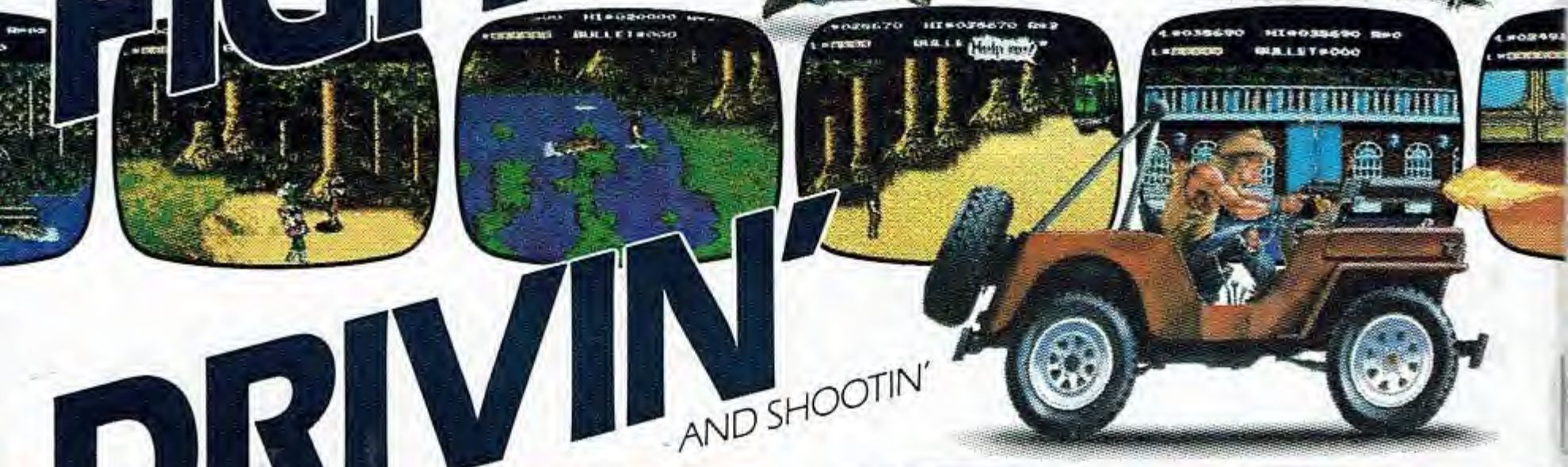
FIGHTIN'



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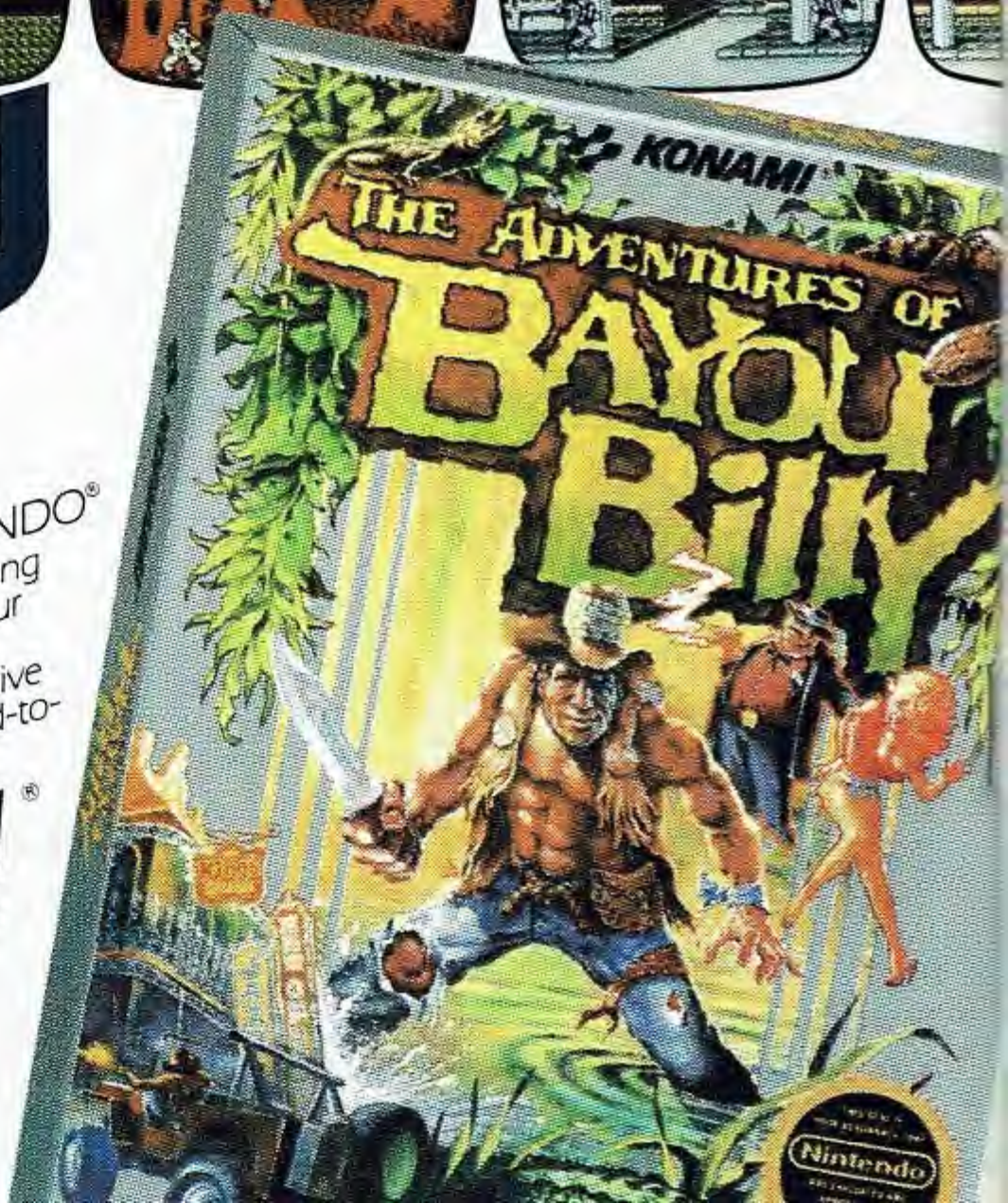
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